

## House Resolution No. 691

**Whereas**, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives hold in high esteem those Show-Me state residents who have proven down through the years to be exemplary citizens in local communities and neighborhoods; and

**Whereas**, Benjamin Harrison has attained considerable distinction for his longstanding service with the railroad, from which he became the first African American to retire; and

**Whereas**, on Sunday, February 27, 2005, Benjamin Harrison will enhance his already impressive record of achievements when he is given well-deserved recognition by Warren Street United Methodist Church in light of the significance of February as Black History Month; and

**Whereas**, Benjamin Harrison is the loving father of eight children; and

**Whereas**, Black History Month is an annual celebration that began in 1926, thanks in large measure to the work of a Harvard University scholar, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who was determined to bring black history into the mainstream of the public arena; and

**Whereas**, Dr. Carter Woodson devoted his life to making “the world see the Negro as a participant rather than as a lay figure in history”; and

**Whereas**, first taking place in the second week of February and known as Negro History Week, Black History Month today occupies the entire month and coincides with the birthdays of such notable historic figures as Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Langston Hughes, and Eubie Black; and

**Whereas**, February also marks the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the holding of the first Pan African Congress and was the month in which the first African American Senator, Hiram Revels, took the oath of office in 1870:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-third General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the lifelong accomplishments garnered by Benjamin Harrison and to convey this legislative body’s most heartfelt congratulations upon his receipt of special honors and accolades from Warren Street United Methodist Church during Black History Month observances on Sunday, February 27, 2005; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of Benjamin Harrison.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative David Pearce  
District No. 121

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, do  
certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House  
Resolution No. 691, adopted February 21, 2005.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rod Jetton, Speaker